

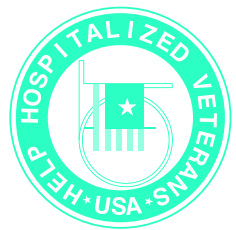
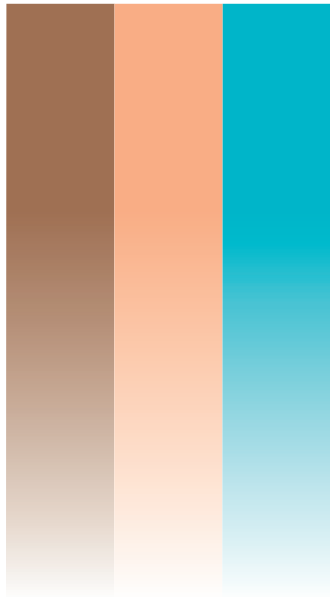


PRESOTT
ARIZONA
2001
NATIONAL
VETERANS
CREATIVE ARTS
FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 15-22

HOSTED BY

THE NORTHERN ARIZONA
VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



arts•gram

A Daily
Production of the
National Veterans
Creative Arts
Festival

Friday, October 19

Can't Resist the Temptation of the 'Westations'

By Andy Scheller, Philadelphia, PA

Music has been part of humankind since man first walked the earth. It was first used as a form of communication and recording history. Today, we have books, television and the internet to record our personal histories. With music no longer necessary as the primary means for communication, it can be a very real way to express emotion and other feelings. It has the power to soothe, excite and inspire. And it seems no one knows this power better than the Westations, a group of veterans from Chicago, Ill.

This talented singing group is made up of Sidney Brown, Lee Hopkins, Donna Pierce, Thaddies Holloway, and Michael Slatton. All are part of the Music Therapy Program at the Chicago VA Healthcare System. They found each other and created a life-time bond. "The Festival and music therapy will be a part of my life until the end," said Lee, who is participating in his third Festival.

Originally, they started out as a trio gospel group with Thaddies, Sidney and Michael. Later, Lee joined the group. The four-some went on to win a gold medal in the 1999 Creative Arts Festival for their rendition of "The Way You Do the Things You Do." With Donna the group was complete. All they needed was a name.

Since their sound was reminiscent of the famous Motown group, the Temptations, they combined that name with the Westside VA where they received their care. They now make regular appearances throughout their community.



The Westations (Clockwise from left) Michael Slatton, Thaddies Holloway, Donna Pierce, Sidney Brown, Lee Hopkins and their music therapist, Jessie Herndon.

The group credits VA, music therapy and Jessie Herndon (their music therapist) for bringing about big changes in their lives.

"It's a beautiful thing to go from a rut to actually doing something you want to do," said Thaddies, who has been participating in Festivals since 1993. Sidney agrees.

"What is really powerful is the interaction... and all that happened with the music and the VA," he said. "Music therapy is a very important thing." Donna, an Air Force veteran, admits she was a mess and "broken down" when Jesse came up on the ward and told her about the music group.

It's obvious that the group has a strong affection for each other due to their mutual support as veterans, singers, and human beings. The Westations and Jessie Herndon, are a shining example of what music therapy hopes to accomplish—that music can heal and soothe the injured soul. And it can create hope and friendships to last a lifetime.

"That's My Marine"

by Laura Bishop, Tomah, WI

When Bud Abare of Albany, NY, first saw Wayne Miller perform, he was impressed by the Washington, D.C. veteran's talent. Later, Bud watched Wayne sing at karaoke and felt inspired by Wayne's vibrance and showmanship. Little did Bud know that a special bond between the two veterans would soon be revealed.

At breakfast on Wednesday, Bud saw Wayne and recognized the military patch on his shirt. Bud looked at the patch closely while at rehearsal and was amazed to see that the patch represented the same unit Bud served in while in Vietnam – K-Com-



pany 3/7 1st Marine Division. The second annual reunion of this unit is being held in Phoenix this week – Bud "chose to come to the festival instead."

He then introduced himself to Wayne and as the two held their private reunion, they exchanged hugs, kisses and tears. Bud served in the Marine unit between 1967-1968 and Wayne, one year later. Their bond

increased — Bud was a corpsman in Vietnam serving his Marine unit. Wayne lost his leg in Vietnam.

Bud explained that in the field, a corpsman didn't have the opportunity to know his patients: he basically patched up the injured men as best he could, and then sent them on to a hospital. The corpsman never knew if an individual soldier lived or died, let alone how he made out once he got home. Wayne added that a wounded man was never able to thank the corpsman who saved his life. Although Bud was not the corpsman who cared for Wayne, the reunion provided each the opportunity to say the things that went unsaid over thirty years ago.

As Bud said with tears in his eyes, "That's my Marine."

Need to Know...

Medical Room: Room: 326/328.
Phone: 273-1354.

Lost & Found: Located in the Host Room (Verde B)

Hospitality Room: Room: 219/221. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Today's hot dish is steamy potato soup.

Travel: Stop in the host room and check with Jim Moran on the transportation team, to review your return travel itinerary for Monday. Call your airlines to make sure the times have not changed.

A note of thanks to Bill Frey, volunteer at Prescott VAMC, for making all the colorful 'Happy-go-Lucky' feather bottles for all of us here at the Festival.

Nosey Notes

by Spilzie Beans

Congrats to proud grandpa, James Smith of Cottage Grove, Minn! Smith's daughter gave birth to a healthy baby girl at 8:00 a.m. yesterday.

It may have started as simple wire clothes hangers, but Rodney Adkisson's wire sculpture of a motorcycle, called "Harley Davidson," may end up sitting on a pedestal. My Hollywood connections tell me none other than the motorcycle collector himself, Jay Leno, is interested in acquiring Adkisson's sculpture. Your motorcycle may have won an award, but we think you're a star Rodney!

Our spies spotted Wayne Miller of Silver Springs, MD at Karaoke rockin' and rollin' and driving all the females crazy. We heard someone

even fainted from his gyrations. Special note to Paula Gorman...please return the oxygen mask.

Art isn't the only thing that blooms at the Festival. Last year cupid's arrows hit straight through the hearts of Melody Moravec from Prescott, and Carlton Godwin of Los Angeles. As we can clearly see this year, the two lovebirds are making their own beautiful music together.

Our scouts on the street tell us Odell Brown and his wife Barbara may be starting a new business after their adventures the other night on their way downtown. Seems the lady taxi driver, with her baby on board, made a detour to the store to pick up some diapers and baby food. The new business...why "Odell's Baby Sitting Service," of course!

Show Notes from the Director's Chair

By Paul Dieke

Building A Community

A community forms for every show that is done. Here's how we can build a great community to present a great show!

Each of us on stage must do our best. Learn your part and do it well. Applaud when a fellow performer does a good job during rehearsals. Be friendly, meet as many people as you can. The visual artists will be joining us on stage for a number. Find out what they are doing in their art workshops and share your experiences with them. The Festival celebrates successes of each of us, as well as ALL of us together!

In the days ahead you will meet costumers, sound technicians, and many other people helping us to have a fine show. Remember, these people are part of our community too. You couldn't do the show without them. Thank them when they hand you a newly pressed vest, when they adjust your hair or make-up, — whenever they work on your behalf.

There are so many people who help sponsor the Festival. When you meet someone from Help Hospitalized Veterans, be sure to thank them for their support. These people are a vital part of our community. The Directors are also working hard to assure your success and appreciate any kind words that you send their way.

Be sure to tell everyone working hard on our show how much YOU appreciate them. The more we respect each other, the stronger our community becomes. And, the more powerful our show will be!

It's Not What You've Lost That Counts

By Laura Bishop, Tomah, WI

Most people wouldn't think of a piano as a piece of adaptive equipment, but for Gary Garriot of Sun Lakes, Arizona, it is just that.

Gary taught himself to play the accordion as a boy and continued to play until he lost his left hand in a farm accident in 1955. Since two hands are needed to play the accordion, he turned to the piano to continue pursuing his love of music. Despite the fact he has now lost 70 percent of his hearing, he says he plays by ear. "I hear the melody and I add the chords to it," he explains. "Playing the accordion helped a lot because I can hear the chords."

Many people here can't believe Gary can play the piano with only one hand. In fact, the one hand he plays with only has four fingers — another accident resulted in the loss of the top of his right-hand ring finger. He tried an artificial finger but it had no feeling and he couldn't tell where it was. Now he just goes without it.

His gold medal rendition of "Open My Eyes that I Might See" is especially appropriate for Gary as two years ago he was diagnosed as being legally blind. Gary was encouraged to enter the Creative Arts Competition by a doctor who heard him play the piano while he was in a VA Blind Rehabilitation Center. "I've got one blessing," he drawls in his native Indiana accent. "I can tell the white keys from the black keys."

Gary's wife of 57 years has been a big help to him this week. He admits that the rehearsals have been frustrating for him. "I can't hear what people say so getting directions is difficult. And,

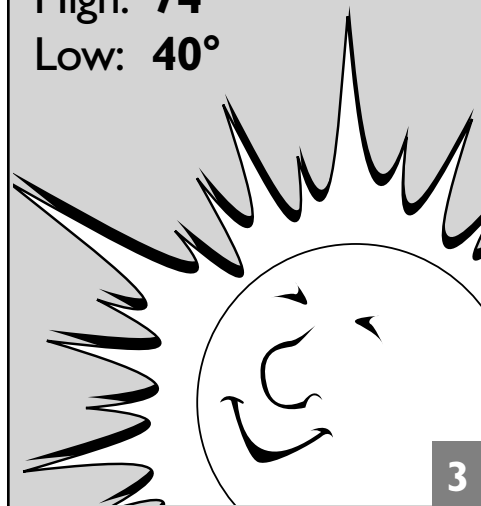
I can't see the notes to follow the music or see the words, so I'm kind of lost." Despite the frustrations, Gary is enjoying the week in Prescott. "I like the instruction we're getting in the choral group and the fellowship with the other veterans. We're also getting a lot of encouragement from the veterans and the staff."

As far as his musical technique goes, he explains "I play the melody with my thumb and then I play the auxiliary notes for the chords. I use all the fingers on my right hand except for the ring finger because it's too short. One note at a time, I play some little base notes with my left hand. I just improvise."

Gary attributes his positive attitude to his faith in God and a sign he saw when he entered the VA hospital in Tucson. The sign read, "It's not what you have lost that is important, it's what you do with what you have left."

Weather Corner

Today:
Sunny - Again!!
High: 74°
Low: 40°



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Schedule Friday, October 19

Performer's Schedule	6am	Artist's Schedule
7-8:30am Breakfast Cottonwood/Sedona Rooms	7	7-8:30am Breakfast Cottonwood/Sedona Rooms
8am Team Leader Meetings - Prescott/Chino Rooms	8	8:30am Team leaders meet with artists
8:30am Team Leaders meet with performers	9	9am - 11:30am All Artists - Precious Metal Clay Workshop Clarkdale Room
9am-Noon Sherlot Hall/Downtown Prescott Tour	10	
	11	
Noon Lunch in Community	Noon	Noon Lunch in Community
1pm Depart for Yavapai College Performance Hall Meet with Jane Powell, photos taken	1pm	1:30-4:30pm Sherlot Hall/Downtown Prescott Tour
2-5pm Technical run-through, ALL performers No orchestra	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	5 - 5:45pm Dinner at hotel - Cottonwood/Sedona Rooms
5:30pm Dinner at Yavapai College	6	6pm Rehearse with Jane Powell at Yavapai College Performance Hall
6:30pm Full Dress Rehearsal (costumes & make-up) with orchestra and ALL performers	7	6:30-7pm Photos with Jane Powell
	8	7-9:30pm Artists in audience at theater for rehearsal
	9	
9:30pm Tech Script Reading-Production Staff Performers, team leaders, and support staff depart for hotel	10	9:30pm Return to Hotel
	11	

Today's Menu



Lunch

Deli Buffet at St. Michael's Hotel
Sandwich Breads & Meats
Assorted Cheeses
3-Bean Salad
Coleslaw
Fruit Salad
Assorted Cookies
Beverages

Dinner

Performers-Catering by Chartwell's
Artists
Sweet & Sour Chicken or Ham
Green Salad and Dressing
Waldorf Salad
Gelatin Mold
Rice or Potato
Broccoli or Carrots
Chef's Choice Dessert
Beverages

Tomorrow's Breakfast

Waffle
Scrambled Eggs
Breakfast Meats
Breakfast Breads
Cereal
Milk and Juice
Hot Beverages